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(54) Title: INHIBITION OF GENE EXPRESSION USING RNA INTERFERING AGENTS

(57) Abstract: The present invention is based, at least in part, on the discovery of compositions and methods for the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases or disorders, e.g., HIV infection, AIDS, and AIDS-related diseases. In particular, the present invention pertains to methods of modulating cellular gene expression or protein activity, e.g., CCR5, gene expression or protein activity and/or gene expression or protein activity of a gene or sequence of an infectious agent, in order to treat or prevent infectious diseases or disorders, HIV infection, AIDS, or an AIDS-related disease or disorder. In one embodiment, the combination of an RNA interfering agent targeting a cellular gene in combination with an RNA interfering agent targeting a gene or sequence of an infectious agent results in prolonged prevention of infection by an infectious agent. The present invention is based on the identification of novel RNA interference agents, e.g., siRNA molecules, which target cellular genes, e.g., chemokine receptors, e.g., the CCR5 gene, and result in inhibition of target gene expression on target gene expressing cells, thereby inhibiting entry of infectious agents, e.g., HIV infection into target cells, prevention infection, and/or suppressing replication in established infection.



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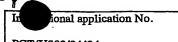
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched .		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Medline, CA, SciSearch, Biosis, West, Embase		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category * Citation of document, with indication, where a		Relevant to claim No.
X MARTINEZ et al. Suppression of Chemokine Rec		22-29, 34-36, 44-58
Y Allows for Inhibition of HIV-I Replication. AIDS, entire document.	Allows for Inhibition of HIV-1 Replication. AIDS, 2002, Vol. 16, pages 2385-2390, entire document.	
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the inter date and not in conflict with the applica-	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report 2 6 AUG 2004 Authorized officer J. D. Schultz, Ph.D.	
08 August 2004 (08.08.2004) Name and mailing address of the ISA/US	Authorized officer	NO & LOO
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PCT/US03/34424 Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet) This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: 2. Claim Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically: Claim Nos.: 8 and 9 because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a). Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet) This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows: As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.